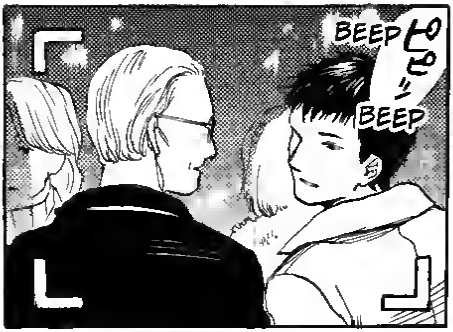
THE SAD DAILY LIVES OF THOSE WHO AWAKENED TO SUPERPOWERS THEY NEVER WANTED.

CHAPTER 07: THE PATH OF HOPE

STARLIGHT WOMAN

RIE KANOU

SAKURAI HAS THE POWER TO READ PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS.
AS A DETECTIVE, WHY IS HE WALKING AROUND TOWN?-


BEEP
ピピッ
BEEP

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ザワ
MURMUR
MURMUR
BEEP
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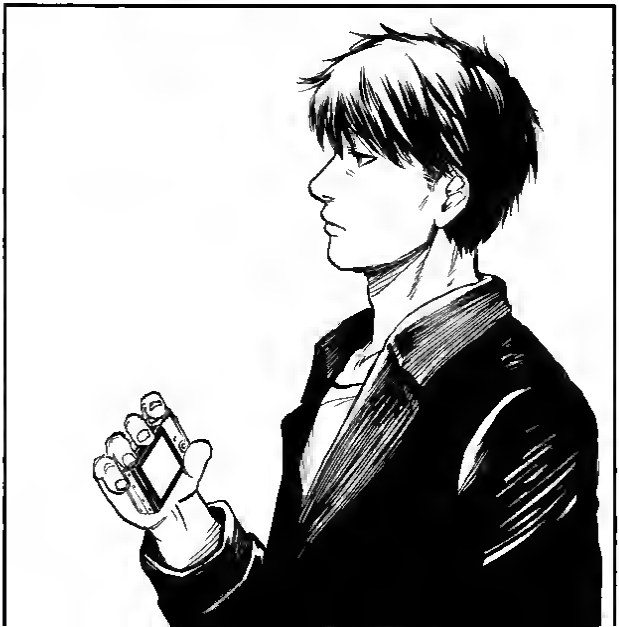
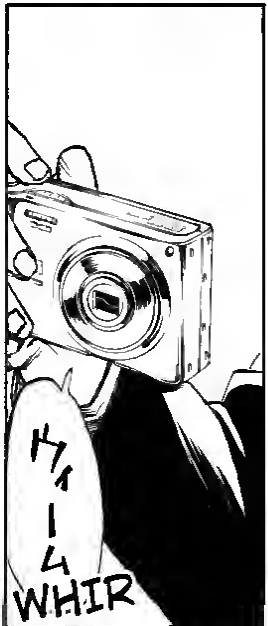
BEEP




ウィーン
WHIR

MURMUR
WHAT A PAIN!
I'LL GO THERE NEXT.
THAT JERK.
THAT BASTARD'S SO STINGY.
I'M SO TIRED
MURMUR
シン。
SILENCE。

*STATELESS PUB AGAIN

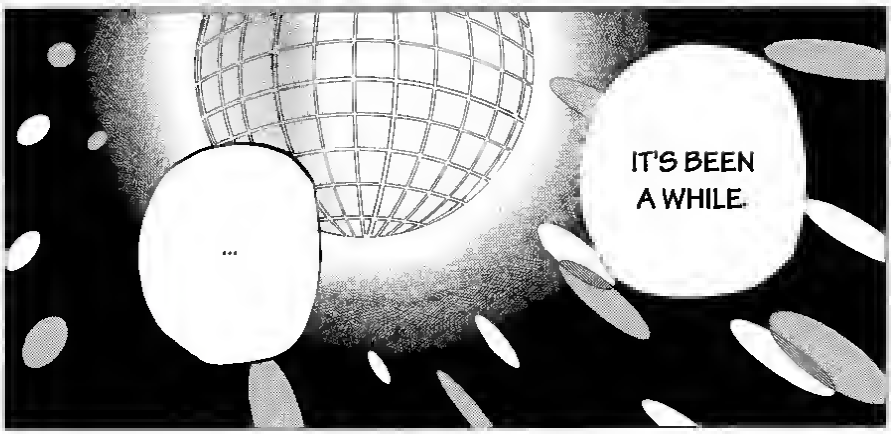
WE HAVE THE ABSOLUTE CUTEST GIRLS IN TOWN!
YOU SHOW GOOD TASTE, COMING HERE, MISTER!

ALL KINDS OF GIRLS, FROM ALL KINDS OF COUNTRIES!
YOU'RE LUCKY, MISTER. TODAY, WE HAVE MORE GIRLS THAN EVER!
JUST TELL ME WHICH ONE YOU LIKE!

SAFE, VERY SAFE.
COME... COME AND SIT DOWN.

...THE BIGGEST GIRL YOU HAVE.
AND I DON'T MEAN FAT.

HMM...
OKAY.
GIVE ME...

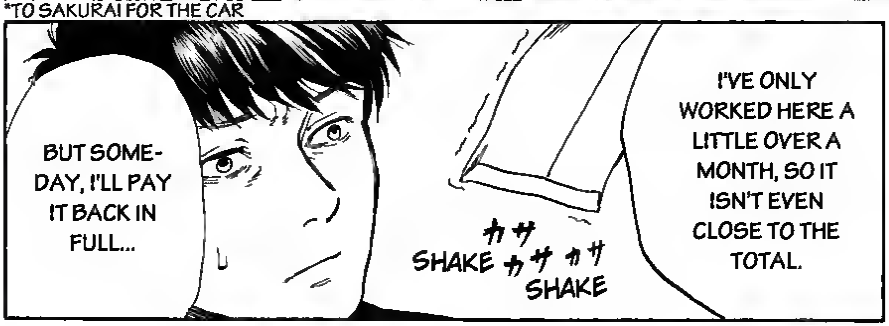

...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

JUST WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
I COULDN'T FIND ANOTHER JOB.
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE MONEY TO BUY RÉSUMÉ PAPER.
GLUG どぼぼ GLUG ぼぼ GLUG
I'M AMAZED YOU HAVEN'T STARVED.
よく餓死しなかったね
OH, YOU LEFT YOUR STUFF AT MY PLACE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A DUMP LIKE THIS?
AND I CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE.
しゃぼっ FLICK
STILL, A PLACE LIKE THIS?
I HAPPENED BY ON A JOB, AND I REALIZED THAT ONE STREET WAS MUCH QUIETER THAN THE REST.
SO I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE YOU WERE HERE...
WHAT? NO, NO...
BEFORE, I TOLD YOU THAT MY POWER GETS WEAKER AROUND YOU...

CLATTER
ガタ
UGH!
YOU CAME HERE ABOUT THE MONEY
FOR THE CAR, DIDN'T YOU?
EH?
OH, COME TO THINK OF IT.
THAT ISN'T...
THE LOAN ON THE CAR I NO LONGER HAVE. HA HA.
A WHILE AGO, I FINALLY PAID IT BACK...
...
...
...
CLINK
カラン
THAT WAS THE FIRST NEW CAR I'VE EVER BOUGHT IN MY LIFE.
I'M A FREE-LANCER WITH BAD CREDIT, SO I COULD ONLY GET A SHORT-TERM LOAN.

SHE RAN.
IS SHE ALLOWED TO LEAVE CUSTOM-ERS?
DASH
ﾀﾞｯ
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S WAY BEYOND WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD...
OH.
SAKURAI
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE THINKING ABOUT
THIS KIND OF PLACE
HAS A LOT OF NASTY CHARAC-TERS.

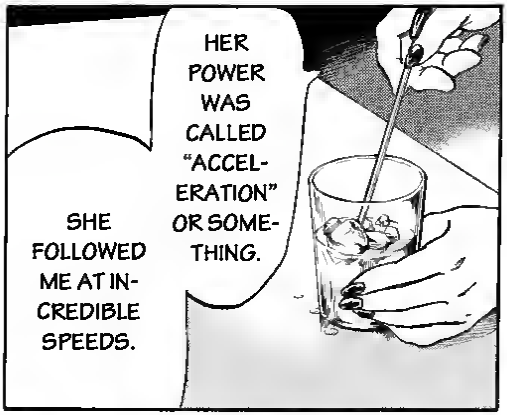
*TO SAKURAI FOR THE CAR


I'VE ONLY WORKED HERE A LITTLE OVER A MONTH, SO IT ISN'T EVEN CLOSE TO THE TOTAL.
カサ SHAKE カサ SHAKE
BUT SOME-DAY, I'LL PAY IT BACK IN FULL...

FOR NOW, I'M USING MY OLD CAR, AND I'M NOT...
I DON'T NEED THE MONEY... HA HA.
THAT WAS A JOKE.
WHY ARE YOU FREAK-ING OUT LIKE THAT?
NO, IT'S JUST..
...
EVER...
EVER SINCE GETTING THIS POWER...
...NOTHING ANYONE DOES EVER SUR-PRISES ME.
YOU JUST CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.
YOU REALLY ARE VERY HONEST.

I DIDN'T FORGET WHAT YOU SAID...
...ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, EITHER.
!
I-IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH MONEY. GO AHEAD AND KEEP IT.
BUT... I CAN'T JUST...
IT'S FINE. YOU CAN PAY ME BACK SOME OTHER WAY.
ALWAYS SIT NEXT TO THE CUSTOMER!
OH, I'M SORRY.
YOU REMEMBERED...
HEY, YUUMA!
I DON'T ONLY MEAN YOUR TEMPERAMENT...
I'O RECOMMEND THAT YOU QUIT SOON.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE CUT OUT FOR THIS JOB.
YEAH, I KNOW.
SORRY, LET ME THROUGH.
GO AROUND FROM THE OTHER SIDE!

AFTER YOU, I MET SOMEONE ELSE WITH SUPERPOWERS.


HER POWER WAS CALLED "ACCELERATION" OR SOMETHING.
SHE FOLLOWED ME AT INCREDIBLE SPEEDS.

WHAT?
SERIOUSLY?
WHAT'RE THEY LIKE?
IT'S A GIRL. PROBABLY IN HIGH SCHOOL.

I DON'T FULLY KNOW WHY, BUT SHE WAS WORKING FOR THE AAH ALIENS.
SHE CALLED ME AND THE OTHERS WITH SUPERPOWERS "ABDUCTEES."

FOLLOWED YOU?
WHY?

I WONDER IF THERE ARE MORE LIKE US.
I DON'T KNOW... BUT I CAN GUESS WHY THEY USED HER.

MOST LIKELY, YOU CAN'T USE YOUR POWER ON OTHER HUMANS.

FROM NOW ON, THINGS ARE GOING TO GET TOUGH.
THEY KNOW CATCHING YOU ON THEIR OWN WILL BE HARD.
...
HE'S SHARP

BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT, CAN YOU?

I...
...KNOW THAT.
I'M SURE SHE'S HAD IT ROUGH, TOO.
THE ALIENS MAY LOOK HARMLESS, BUT THEY DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HUMANS AT ALL.

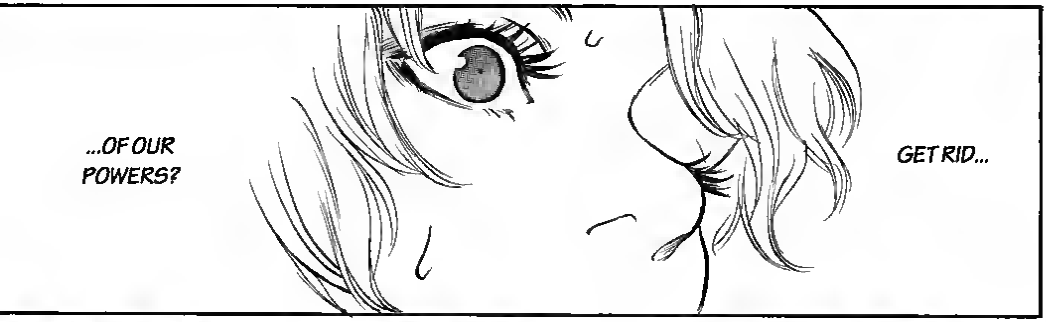
BUT WHY?
YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHOSE LIFE THEY'VE RUINED, YOU KNOW.
I'M LOOKING FOR IT... I KNOW IT'S OUT THERE.

YEAH.
I'VE BEEN INVESTI-GATING THEM.

?
ANYWAY, YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE AAH ALIENS, DON'T YOU?

THE WAY TO GET RID OF OUR POWERS.
ゴオオオオ
BREAK

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
SHATTER

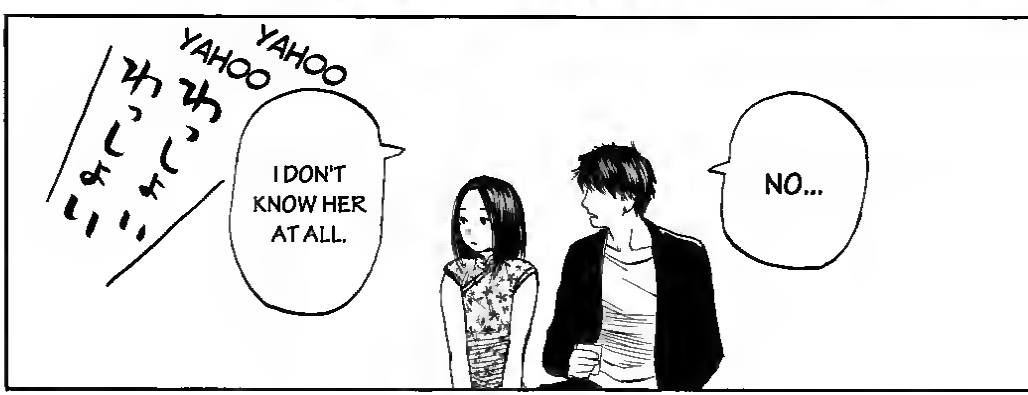

...OF OUR POWERS?
GET RID...

OKUI-SAN IS WAITING FOR YOU!
I'M S-SORRY... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
YUUMA-CHAN!
YOU'VE BEEN RE-QUESTED!
IS THAT...
SAKU-RAI...

HELLO...
STAY HERE, SHE SAYS...
LEAN
STAY THERE.
KITTY. GIVE ME A HAND.
I AM KITTY.
HERE, HERE. HAVE A DRINK.
OH... THANKS.
OH.
CHOMP CHOMP
THAT'S RIGHT... I CAN'T HEAR HER THOUGHTS BECAUSE HOSHI-SAN'S NEARBY.
ARE YOU YUU-MA'S FRIEND?
AH...
HA HA HA
I'M NOT SURE...

AT THIS PLACE, THE CUSTOMERS ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
I BET SHE ISN'T..
IS SHE FITTING IN HERE?
YOU'RE SO BIG, YUUMA-CHAN, BUT YOU CAN'T DRINK AT ALL.
YOU CAN STILL KEEP GOING... LET'S SEE WHO CAN DRINK MORE.
NO, OKUI-SAN. I REALLY..
AND IF YOU WIN, I'LL BUY YOU A WHOLE SPECIAL FRUIT PLATE!
?!
WORKING HERE MAY NOT SUIT HER.
YUUMA IS A SERIOUS, NORMAL GIRL.
DO YOU KNOW HER WELL?
BUT I DO NOT KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT HER.
HUH?
WAH
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
NORMAL, HUH?
ポリ
NIBBLE

HA HA HA HA
はははは
OKUI-SAN...
ALL RIGHT! THE FRUIT PLATE IS MINE!
GO, YUUMA-CHAN! YOU'RE THE BEST IN THE UNI-VERSE!


YAHOO
YAHOO
I DON'T KNOW HER AT ALL.
NO...